



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **TRIPLE HOMICIDE SUSPECT DEPORTED TO MEXICO**

*Fugitive is wanted by Mexicali police for allegedly murdering his son, a taxi driver and neighbor*

HOUSTON — A Mexican national wanted for murdering three people in Mexico was deported today by Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Salvador Morales-Cervantes, 59, was arrested by ICE DRO officers April 9 at his apartment complex as he returned from a local store. Morales-Cervantes has been a fugitive from Mexico since December 2002.

Morales-Cervantes is a 30-year veteran police officer with the Mexicali Police Department and is accused of murdering his own son, his neighbor and a taxi driver in Baja California, Mexico. The Mexican Attorney General's office believed he has been residing in Houston, Texas.



According to the Mexican arrest warrant, Morales-Cervantes shot his 15-year-old son in the head while he was sleeping in August 2001 over a custody dispute with his wife with whom he had recently separated. Sixteen months later, he also allegedly shot his neighbor and a taxi driver in December 2003 before fleeing to the United States.

"Our country is not a safe haven for violent criminals who commit crimes across the border and assume they can hide in our communities," said Charles Arendale, ICE's field office director for Detention and Removal Operations. "No individual is above the law, and we will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to our South to bring criminals to justice."

Mexican authorities had been looking for Morales-Cervantes for three years, and requested the U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) in California assist them. Under a national initiative called Operation FALCON, ICE and USMS agents arrested Morales-Cervantes at his apartment complex.

Operation Falcon is a nationwide fugitive apprehension operation coordinated by the USMS, ICE and several local state and federal law enforcement agencies to combine resources to locate and apprehend criminals wanted for violent crimes. Since the beginning of the initiative, there have been more than 10,000 arrests nationwide.

Morales-Cervantes received final orders of removal by an immigration judge July 13.

ICE DRO officers turned Morales-Cervantes over to Mexican law enforcement authorities at the Laredo, Texas, Port-of-Entry earlier today to face triple homicide charges.

Removing criminal aliens from the United States is a national priority. To address this priority, DRO designed the National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP). Its mission is to apprehend process and remove from the United States aliens who have failed to surrender or comply with removal orders addressed by the immigration courts.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*